

"JACK O'BRIEN, WHOSE WEALTH HAS VANISHED"

HE LOVED HIS ART.

New York, July 5.—The recent appearance of Jack O'Brien, one-time pugilistic star, in the bankruptcy court was quite a surprise to the sporting world. In these days when pugilists are rated among our most conservative and successful capitalists, the idea that the forty "Jack" has allowed himself to be separated from his once substantial "roll" is almost incredible.

In the hey-day of his career O'Brien was one of the most spectacular figures in the ring. As an exponent of the sheer art of boxing, he was a real artist, with no superiors in the wide world, and, perhaps, but one or two equals in the entire history of the ring. O'Brien, whose name is Joseph Hagan, was as money hungry as any of his ring colleagues, and on his retirement from the ring a few years ago his fortune was variously estimated, the figures ranging from \$200,000 to half a million.

O'Brien might have followed in the footsteps of some of his fellow pugilists and made conservative investments in real estate or the like. But as much as he loved money, he loved the boxing game more; not as a typical pug, but as an artist loves his art. So in his case it is again the "art" the blemish is again the fault that has proved the undoing of its unfortunate possessor.



JACK O'BRIEN.

"OLNY" NOLAN WAS JOHNSON OF "POP" ANSON'S DAYS

With the passing away of Edward Nolan at his home in Paterson, N. J., another of the fast-fading landmarks that link modern baseball with ancient times was removed from the land of the living. To the fans of the '90s the name of Nolan was fully as familiar as the title of Mathewson, Johnson, Rucker, or Bender today.

Contemporary with such heroes as "Pop" Anson, Dan Brouthers, "King" Kelly, John Clarkson, Charles Rucker, and Jim Whitney, Nolan established a reputation that has spanned the gap of nearly forty years, and his feats are still remembered and talked about wherever the true baseball fans gather. While pitching for Cleveland, and later Philadelphia, in the early days of the National League, Nolan's prowess became so pronounced that the fans proudly referred to him as the "Only Nolan." The announcement that Eddie was going to pitch was a sufficient attraction to fill the stands, and many handsome presents were bestowed on him by enthusiastic admirers.

Nolan was born in Paterson on September 5, 1868, and his early baseball experience was gained on the back lots of the Jersey town, which has come to have a national reputation as the home of great ball players. Although only fifty-five years of age at his death, the once great pitcher had not been connected with professional baseball since 1907. The spring of that year Eddie signed a contract to play for the Washington, then Eastern League, club, but Mayor C. D. Beckwith, of Paterson, offered him an appointment on the city police force, and Nolan forsook a diamond career to accept.

Pitched to Kelly. Nolan gained his early baseball experience as a member of the so-called Sand Hill gang. This organization, which was more or less of a terror to the good people of Paterson, produced, in addition to Nolan, "King" Kelly, the famous backstop, and Jim McCormick, afterward famous as a Giant pitcher. Playing baseball was the principal occupation of the Sandy Hill gang, and the prowess displayed by Nolan, McCormick and Kelly soon attracted attention.

Eddie from his early introduction to the game was always a pitcher, and in later years he was wont to say that some of his hardest diamond battles were fought out on the Sandy Hill lots when the honor of the gang was the only prize at stake. By his time Nolan was fifteen years of age his baseball ability had attracted the attention of the manager of the Olympics, a Paterson semi-pro team, and the kid pitcher was given a chance to try out against older opponents.

Nolan was a sensation from the first game. Without being particularly taught, Eddie had stumbled on to the trick of throwing a curve ball, and he probably ranked as one of the first twirlers to use that style of delivery. An underhand delivery, with a sharp-breaking in-shoot, was his particular skill in trade, and the opponents of the Olympics went down like sheep in a slaughter house. The fame of young Nolan spread abroad, and in 1890 one of the owners of the Ohio Buckeye club, of Columbus, Ohio, signed him on a conditional contract. Eddie's friends predicted that he would be a long walk home from the ball star, but the enthusiasm of youth carried Nolan along, and before many weeks went by reports began to come

out of the West of the wonderful work of the young Buckeye pitcher.

Goes to Cleveland.

The spring of 1893 found Nolan included among the battery stars of the Cleveland National League club, and for the next nine years the name of the "Only Nolan" was on the lips of every baseball fan in the country. Nolan was a baseball star during the days when the betting fraternity controlled the sport, and thousands of dollars were wagered on every contest. Players did not receive the princely salaries paid at the present time, but jubilant gamblers often made lavish presents to the men after a killing. Nolan was always a stake horse in every game he pitched, and millions of dollars probably changed hands of the results of his games.

From Cleveland Nolan drifted to Indianapolis and later to Philadelphia. Always a wanderer, his experiences carried him one season out to San Francisco, where he performed as a member of the famous Knickerbocker Club. Eddie quit the game in the very height of his career, realizing that the down-hill road is fast to travel, and a fallen baseball star is quickly forgotten.

Endowed with a natural determination to excel in anything that he undertook, Nolan made fully as good an officer as he did a ball player, and his rise in the Police Department was exceptionally rapid. At the time of his death he was senior sergeant, and in a direct line for promotion to captain.

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